

REMARKS

Claims 15-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 15-19 are amended and claim 20 is added. Support for the features added to claims 15-19 can be found in the original specification at, for example, page 8, lines 9-11 and page 13, lines 21-24. Support for the features recited in claim 20 can be found in the original specification at, for example, page 16, lines 6-9. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments. The independent claims are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied references.

Claims 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,504,551 to Takashima et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,565,931 to Girod.¹ This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Takashima et al. and Girod do not disclose or suggest the combinations of features recited in the independent claims of this application. In particular, Takashima et al. and Girod do not disclose or suggest an electronic still camera having the combination of features recited in independent claim 15, an image processing method for an electronic still camera as recited in independent claim 18, or a computer-readable computer program product for an electronic still camera as recited in independent claim 19. Accordingly, claims 15-20 are patentable over Takashima et al. and Girod.

The Office Action recognizes that Takashima et al. does not include an image-capturing device and is not an electronic still camera, but relies on Girod for this feature. However, Girod merely shows that the output of a camera 22 can be subjected to various processing outside of the camera. Thus, while Girod may disclose that a camera 22 can be a video signal source, neither Takashima et al. nor Girod discloses or suggests an electronic

¹ Although the statement of the rejection on page 2 of the Office Action does not mention Girod, it is believed that Girod was intended to be included in the rejection based on page 3, lines 12-19 of the Office Action

still camera having the combinations of features recited in independent claim 15, or the method or computer program product for an electronic still camera as recited in independent claims 18 and 19. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: May 26, 2006

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